



THE OBSERVER

December 2005

Published by the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Roch Larochelle, PE

NHSPE President

November and December mark what I consider to be two of the busiest months of our administrative year at NHSPE. Right on the heels of hosting a very successful Northeast Regional Meeting in October, we are already in preparation mode for the upcoming Annual Engineers Week Banquet (February 23, 2006). This event is traditionally organized by NHSPE and sponsored by all technical societies as the one time of year when we can get together to network, meet with old friends and collectively celebrate National Engineers Week (February 19 - 25, 2006) and the accomplishments of our peers in this great profession. This year's

*A Word From The President
continued on Page 3*

NORTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING

The NSPE Northeast Regional Meeting sponsored by the New Hampshire Society in late October was a rousing success. Over 160 engineers and guests from across the northeast gathered at the Sheraton Hotel in Portsmouth to participate in three days of educational sessions, networking, social activities, and governance sessions. The Northeast Region includes all of the New England states, New York, Pennsylvania, and the eastern coast states down to Washington, D.C. The event is hosted each year by a different state in the region. Attendance in New Hampshire this year far surpassed any Northeast Regional Meeting in recent memory; a result of the hard work and planning that was put into the event.

Thursday and Friday included an excellent array of educational sessions including presentations on the Big Dig, Design/Build challenges of the I-295 Highway in Portland, Maine, a session on ethics using the NSPE program "Incident at Morales," a program on sustainable building design, an interactive session on public presentations, and a panel discussion on Design/Build. Each of the programs generated many questions and lively discussions, which is a tribute to the



Professor Win Watson teaching attendees about the secret life of lobsters.

excellent presenters that all volunteered to share their time and knowledge.

At lunch on Friday attendees heard an update on current programs that NSPE is working on, including a graduated dues program to make membership more affordable for engineers recently out of college. We also heard from two engineers about why they joined NSPE and 'what NSPE has done for me.'

An ice-breaker reception and cocktail hour on Thursday evening provided an excellent opportunity to meet with friends old and new. Given the locale, we had to include a little 'Seacoast' in the event. Friday's dinner banquet included a lobster dinner feast (when was the last time you saw fifty engineers eating whole lobsters?) and a fascinating and entertaining discussion by

*Northeast Regional Meeting
continued on Page 4*

INSIDE

A Word From The President	1, 3
Northeast Regional Meeting	1, 4
MATHCOUNTS 2005 - 2006	2
Remembering John Alger, P.E.	2
Joint Societies Update	5
Math and Science Awards	5
E-Week Editorial	6
NHSPE State Scholarship	6
Engineers Make A Difference	7
Mark Your Calendar	8

MATHCOUNTS 2005-2006

As of mid-November, we had 25 schools registered for the 2005-2006 MATHCOUNTS program in New Hampshire. The deadline is December 9, and we normally see the majority of the registrations coming in during the last few weeks, so that bodes well for a total number of schools equal to or greater than last year.

The Regional Contest for the Keene Region will be held at Keene State College on Friday, February 10, 2006 (the snow date will be Friday, February 17, 2006). Dates and locations for the Regional Contests in the other five regions will be established shortly.

We expect that the State Competition will be held at Plymouth State University in March. The date for the contest will be determined shortly. Volunteers able to help with either the Regional or State contests will be most welcome.

The National Contest will be held in Arlington, Virginia on Friday, May 12, 2006.

Contributions to help support MATHCOUNTS are beginning to come in from individuals, organizations and businesses across the state. Contributions are tax deductible and can be made to NHSPE MATHCOUNTS and sent to "NHSPE MATHCOUNTS Program, P.O. Box 1343, Concord, NH 03301-1343." ☎

Submitted by Ben Pratt, PE

THE OBSERVER

The Observer is published quarterly by the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers for its members. Its purpose is to inform members of NHSPE activities and related topics.

Address all correspondence to the *Editor*:

Erin Wood, P.E.
c/o Haley & Aldrich, Inc.
340 Granite Street, 3rd Floor
Manchester, NH 03102
(603) 391-3321 - phone
(603) 391-3371 - fax
ewood@HaleyAldrich.com

Designed by:

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NHSPE MOURNS THE PASSING OF JOHN ALGER, P.E., F. NSPE

NHSPE lost a friend and advocate on October 11, 2005, with the passing following a lengthy illness of John R.M. Alger, P.E. of Rumney, New Hampshire.

John was educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), graduating in 1950 with BS and MS degrees in electrical engineering. He had a successful 38 year career with the General Electric Company in Schenectady, NY, where he was integrally involved in the engineering development of consumer products such as washers and dryers, color televisions, and air conditioners, as these products evolved and began to be mass marketed. He held three patents and co-authored papers and a book on engineering topics. Later in his career, he coordinated the development of power cogeneration facilities.

During his career, John was a founding member through the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) of the National Institute of Engineering Ethics (NIEE), writing their newsletter "Engineering Ethics Update" at his kitchen table in the beginning of that organization. The NIEE has since become an institution in the profession and a national resource, headquartered at Texas Tech University.

John's interest in engineering ethics followed that of his father, who was also an engineer and was involved in engineering ethics issues in the prior generation. Mr. Alger's family had a long engineering pedigree, including engineers dating back to a family member who was the Quartermaster General of the Union Army during the civil war.

Upon retirement, John moved to New Hampshire, became involved in the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers, served as a member of the Rumney Conservation Commission and Planning Board, and ran for the state legislature where he served with distinction for nine years. One of his roles was to represent the



interests of professional engineers in the legislature. He played a key role in appropriate modifications to the professional engineering statute in New Hampshire. He sponsored and co-sponsored many bills which passed the New Hampshire legislature, which is no small feat in one of the world's largest legislative bodies. He was a self-styled "tax fighter."

John was a Fellow of the National Society of Professional Engineers, and he received many awards, including New Hampshire's Engineer of the Year in 1997, the New Hampshire Municipal Association's "Volunteer of the Year" in 1994, and the New Hampshire Timber Owners Association's "Legislator of the Year" in 2000.

At its meeting in November, the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers voted to permanently name one of the NHSPE scholarships after John Alger. Throughout his career and his professional and public involvements, John was upbeat at all times, hard working, and always willing to give back to the engineering profession and the public. It is NHSPE's hope through this on-going scholarship assistance to engineering students that others will learn of, and be instilled with, these qualities. ☎

Submitted by

Craig N. Musselman, PE, F. NSPE

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from Page 1

banquet is once again to be held at the Center of New Hampshire at the Radisson Hotel with Wally Stickney, former NHDOT Commissioner and former FEMA Director as our keynote speaker. Look for more information on this event soon or visit our website at www.nhspe.org.

There are several other notable events that take place during this period leading up to the Engineers Week Banquet including preparing nominations for Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year awards. The Selection Review Committee is already in place and nomination packages were submitted by December 2, 2005 for consideration. In addition, our Board is very busy planning and fundraising for the newly established Math and Science Teachers Award as well as the NHSPE State Scholarship

program and State MATHCOUNTS competition. You can always get more information on these and other programs from our website at www.nhspe.org. On a personal note, you will note that our scholarship program has now been renamed the John Alger Memorial Scholarship. This action was recently approved by our Board in deepest sympathy to family members and in respect to our former board member, colleague and friend who recently passed away after a long illness.

These are just some of the programs that we are busy working on for this administrative year, along with our regular schedule of membership meetings (see separate notices) coming up in December and January as well as ongoing work developing our new By-Laws and Operating Procedures that will

echo ongoing Governance changes at the National level (see www.nspe.org for more information). I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their continued energy and focus during this busy time and would also like to welcome Ms. Erin Wood of Haley & Aldrich as our new *Observer* newsletter editor. As always, we are continually looking for volunteers to help with the programs that we sponsor and all members are always invited to attend our regular board meetings which are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the offices of CLD Consulting Engineers in Manchester.....we invite any and all to "Get Involved and Get Ahead!" I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. 

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NORTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING

Continued from Page 1

Win Watson, PhD, professor at UNH, about his research in the habits of lobsters (everything you ever wanted to know about lobsters, but were afraid to ask).

Saturday was a day for 'business' for Regional and National issues. This included a presentation about the future of NSPE by NSPE President Kathryn Gray, P.E. and Regional Vice President Brad Aldrich, P.E. NSPE continues to move toward a focus on licensed PE's and increasing partnerships with the State societies to improve overall value to our members. Attendees also heard a presentation on the issues of engineering education in the United States and considerations for future requirements for additional education ('bachelors plus

30') as a prerequisite for licensure. The meeting was completed with Regional governance issues and a sharing of ideas between the states.

The event was coordinated by a planning committee which included Roch Larochelle, P.E., Matt Purcell, P.E., Joe Ducharme, P.E., Bill Straub, P.E., Paul Schmidt, P.E. Larry Dwyer, P.E., and Dan Hudson, P.E., with support from the NHSPE Board of Directors and other volunteers. We'd like to thank Rosann Bloom of CLD and Anne Heffernan of CMA Engineers for their work pulling together all the details. 🍷

*Submitted by Paul Schmidt, PE
NERM Committee*



NSPE President Kathryn A Gray, P.E., F.NSPE (IL) and husband Carl enjoying lobster.



NHSPE President Roch Larochelle, P.E. with lobster in hand.



ENGINEERS WEEK® 2006
February 19-25

National Engineers Week
is February 19-25, 2006

Engineers Week Banquet
is February 23RD

See www.nhspe.org
for reservations

JOINT SOCIETIES UPDATE

The NHSPE will host a joint engineering society informational meeting on January 6, 2006 at 5:00pm at the offices of CLD Consulting Engineers, 540 Commercial Street, Manchester, New Hampshire.

The meeting agenda includes an overview of NHSPE's recent success with the Regional Conference held in Portsmouth during the last week of October 2005, an update on NHSPE's progress in planning the 2006 Engineers Week Banquet, and discussion regarding the possibility of collaborating with all New Hampshire technical engineering societies to develop a one-day educational seminar for the Fall of 2006.

Your attendance and input is welcome. See the NHSPE website "events" section for the official announcement and directions to CLD's office. ☎

Submitted by Joseph Ducharme, PE

NH MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS PROGRAM

The NH Math and Science Teacher of the Year Awards Program (MSTA) is off and running again this year. As the chair of the MSTA Committee, NHSPE has reestablished contact with the other sponsoring organizations to identify their committee representatives, review lessons learned in the program's inaugural year, and begin the work of soliciting applications for the 2006 awards.

The awards are intended to be presented annually, one each to a high school, middle school, and elementary grade teacher, to recognize excellence in the teaching and learning of math and/or science in New Hampshire schools.

The sponsoring organizations include the:

- New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers,
- University of New Hampshire College of Engineering and Physical Sciences,
- New Hampshire Teachers of Mathematics, and
- New Hampshire Science Teachers Association.

The NH Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers has also expressed an interest in possibly signing on as a sponsor and we would welcome their involvement.

Award applications are scheduled to be mailed to all New Hampshire schools by mid-December. The deadline for applications is January 20, 2006 and the awards will be presented at the annual Engineers Week Banquet and Exhibition, to be held on February 23, 2006 at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, New Hampshire.

If you know of any excellent NH math and/or science teachers, and I trust that many of you do, please encourage their teaching colleagues, school administrators, or others to nominate them for these awards so they get the recognition they deserve.

Please visit NHSPE's website at www.nhspe.org for further program details, or contact Dan Hudson, PE, MSTA Committee Chair, at (603) 668-8223 x162 or danh@cldengineers.com if you have any questions or would like to assist in some way. ☎

Submitted by Dan Hudson, PE

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E-WEEK EDITORIAL

by Ronald Sugar

Among the significant benefits of our profession is the knowledge that, as engineers, we have a chance to enhance lives every day. Through Connecting Educators to Engineering, this year's Engineers Week initiative, we have a unique opportunity to help make the next generation of engineers aware of the rewards of our field. In the process, we can help improve our profession's prospects and students' futures.

To do so, we must expand our outreach beyond high school and college; to ensure students are developing the appropriate math and science skills, we must reach them during the middle-school years, as well. As co-chair of Engineers Week 2006, I join the Society of Women Engineers in encouraging you to offer your support to schools as an engineering resource.

Connecting Educators to Engineering speaks to the importance of recognizing the critical interconnected-

ness of our world. By introducing this concept to middle-school students, we not only show how math and science relate to a potential career option, but also how engineering is related to so much of their lives, from video games to computers to the aerodynamics of a skateboard. The initiative also speaks to a core value of Northrop Grumman Corporation – direct involvement in our schools and communities.

Each of us who enjoys a career in engineering knows how rewarding it is to contribute to the innovations that fuel our quality of life, economic growth and national security. The next generation will only experience the same growth we almost take for granted if enough of them recognize the value of our profession. If we start now, I believe that we as a profession can ensure their future. 

Dr. Ronald D. Sugar

Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President

Northrop Grumman Corporation

Honorary Chair, Engineers Week 2006

NHPSE STATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Once again the fall season heralds the kickoff of our annual State Scholarship Program for the spring of 2006. Here is how it will come together this year:

By Thanksgiving we will send out a solicitation package to numerous Professional Firms throughout New Hampshire to plead for continued support of this great program through tax-deductible donations... so keep watch for yours in the mail and thanks in advance for your generous contributions!

In December, local and regional high schools, guidance departments as well as our state universities will be notified that NHSPE Scholarship applications are available on our web site.

April 1, 2006 will mark the deadline for all scholarship applicants.

All applications will be reviewed by mid-April and notifications will be sent out within one week.

This is my second year of chairing this worthwhile event, and prior to me Roch Larochelle was the chair for four years. God bless him! During the first two years of our short history, we received 5 and 12 applicants, awarding one \$500 scholarship the first year and one \$1,000 scholarship the second year. The next three

years averaged 65 applicants and we awarded two \$1,000 scholarships the first year and three the last two years.

So there you have it. We plan to be able to fund \$1,000 scholarships for more than three deserving students for the 2006 season, but this will only be possible with your continued support. Watch for our upcoming notice in the mail and be sure to send in your tax-deductible donation to "NHSPE, State Scholarship Program, PO Box 1146, Amherst NH, 03031" to help ensure the success of our future engineers! 

Submitted by Larry Dwyer, PE



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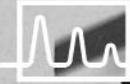
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From the water we drink, to the roads we drive, to the lights we burn, engineers touch our lives in many ways. The world celebrates engineers and the work we do during Engineers Week, held during the third week of February.

Engineering societies of New Hampshire will come together in recognition of this event with the New Hampshire Engineers Week Awards Banquet to be held on Thursday, February 23. The 2006 banquet will be hosted at the Center of New Hampshire at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester.

We will acclaim the achievements of two of our own, as they receive the coveted 'Engineer-of-the-Year' and 'Young-Engineer-of-the-Year' awards.

Wally Stickney, the former Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is the scheduled keynote speaker. Mr. Stickney oversaw the relief operations in Dade County Florida when Hurricane Andrew ravaged that area. He will reflect on his own experiences in 1992, and offer insight on the much-maligned FEMA response after Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Stickney will offer his perspectives on the subsequent response by the U.S. Congress to bolster the effectiveness of federal relief efforts.

Look for registration information soon available at www.nhspe.org or at www.state.nh.us/jtboard/home.htm.

Deadline for registration is February 15, 2006. ☎

Submitted by George Fredette, PE



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Names & Numbers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Roch Larochelle, P.E., 668-8223 x136
rochl@cldengineers.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Paul Schmidt, P.E., 431-6196
pschmidt@cmaengineers.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Daniel Hudson, P.E., 668-8223 x162
danh@cldengineers.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

SECRETARY

John DiGenova, P.E., 391-3307
jdigenova@HaleyAldrich.com

TREASURER

Lawrence Dwyer, P.E., 647-9700
LDwyer@jgieastern.com

STATE DIRECTORS

Robert Couture, P.E., 659-2517
Robert@rlc-nuclear.com

Matthew Low, P.E., 669-5555
mlow@hta-nh.com

ENGINEERS WEEK

George Fredette, P.E., 647-8700
gfredette@sfceng.com

LEGISLATION

Franklin Tilton, 528-8466
ftilton@earthlink.net

MATHCOUNTS

Ben Pratt, P.E., 588-6740
bpratt@conknet.com

MEMBERSHIP

Holly Clark, E.I.T., 973-9036
membership@nhspe.org

SCHOLARSHIP

Lawrence Dwyer, P.E., 647-9700
LDwyer@jgieastern.com

EDUCATION

Matthew Purcell, P.E., 646-1499
matthew.r.purcell@valley.net

NSPE Web Site www.nspe.org

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MARK YOUR
CALENDARS

3rd Thursday of Every Month

NHSPE

Board of Directors Meeting

January 6, 2006

Joint Engineering Societies
Informational Meeting

January 26, 2006

NH DES

Site Specific & Wetlands Programs
Update on Proposed Rules

February 23, 2006

Engineers Week
Banquet and Exhibition

April 13, 2006

ACEC/NHDOT
Technical Exchange Conference



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or change on-line at www.nspe.org